The
REPORTER
For Conscience' Sake

VOLUMN IX | MAY, 1952 | NUMBER 3

How to Fill in Form 150

By Morris Keeton
Professor, Antioch College

[Editor's Note: *NSB has a release on "How to Fill in Form 150." It is a symposium of articles by several men. Some of these articles were printed in* The Reporter *some months ago. This is another in the series. We suggest you send for the entire release.*]

An answer to SS Form 150 should be prompt, sincere, friendly, and amply supplied with relevant information. Three implications of this suggestion are worth stressing:

(1) You should not conceal facts about your history which would injure your case. For example, if you sanction the use of force in many situations, if you used to be an ardent advocate of use of military force as an instrument of national policy, or if you are simply unsure what you think about important issues bearing on conscientious objection, be frank about these things even though you mak risk misunderstanding or persecution by so doing: in the long run integrity and truthfulness are your best defense.

(2) Do not withhold information which would permit an understanding draft board to give you the benefit of doubt where otherwise you would be denied C.O. status. For example, if you are a pantheist or think of the most creative forces in our universe as love, truth, or some other non-personal "being," answer "yes" to the question whether you believe in a Supreme Being and then explain your belief so that the draft board can judge for itself. If you have had no institutional religious training, but got your pacifism by experiences not formally planned, describe this sequence of experiences; do not leave the question on training un-

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CO Program Delayed Till After July 1 Pending Appropriations Discussions

As this goes to press, the latest word from government officials is that the CO program will be delayed until sometime after July 1, 1952, the beginning of the new governmental fiscal year. At the moment the Third Supplemental Appropriations Bill, passed by both the House and Senate in slightly different forms (the item on CO appropriations is the same in each) is being considered by a Joint Conference Committee of the Senate and House. Following this consideration the bill will go back to the Senate and House again for final action. This action may have been taken by the time this REPORTER reaches our readers. This Third Supplemental Appropriations bill allows Selective Service to spend $15,000 for "further study" of the CO program between the time of final enactment of the bill and June 30, 1952. Selective Service had requested $150,000 for this period. The House Appropriations Committee Report, which suggested use of this $15,000 only for further study of the program, also indicated that members of this Committee are not in sympathy with the proposed program. The Senate Committee had no printed comment on the CO item. Observers believe the economy drive in Congress was more responsible for the cut than actual opposition to COs.

Meaning of Situation Vague

For the moment the meaning of the situation is somewhat vague. According to reliable sources, there were "off the record" discussions of the CO situation in Congressional Committees. These discussions are not printed in any official Committee reports. The general motive and trend of these discussions may influence the activity of Selective Service regarding the CO program. Some governmental authorities think the language of the House Committee report will prevent operation of the work program before July 1, 1952; others claim that an amendment adopted by the Senate removing restrictions on the use of funds, earmarked for a given function of Selective Service, by any other function of this System will not prevent the operation of the program before July 1, 1952. The discussion of the Joint Conference Committee on this point may have significance. In any event, because of the shortness of time, it seems certain no operations will begin before July 1, 1952.

Next Fiscal Year Uncertain

The budget for fiscal 1953, beginning July 1, 1952, does not contain any specific appropriation for the CO program. The original draft of this budget was cleared by the Administration last fall before the CO regulations were issued. This bill has passed the House and now awaits action by the Senate. However, this bill removes restrictions on the use of funds within Selective Service—that is, funds earmarked for a given function may be transferred to other functions for effective operation of the total Selective Service System. Some officials think this will allow operation of the CO program following July 1, 1952. Others think that Selective Service will need to go back to Congress during fiscal 1953 (beginning July 1, 1952) and request funds specifically for the CO program.

A Prediction

It is our prediction that the program will begin slowly, with subsequent lei-

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The Reporter

Published by the

National Service Board for Religious Objectors

1105 K Street, N.W.
Washington 5, D. C.

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How to Fill In Form 150

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answered, and do not deny that you had any training of a religious kind.

In this connection, some C.O.'s are offended by the language of the law requiring that one's belief be not primarily political or philosophical and be not merely a personal moral code or that it involve duties superior to those arising from any human relation. The writers of these phrases lacked an understanding of the essentially philosophical nature of much wisely developed religion. They overlooked the fact that there is a sense in which one's moral code and one's religion has to be "merely personal." They were either ignorant of religions which hold that no religious duty is superior to the religious duties arising from human relations or they wrote an unconstitutionally discriminatory provision into their questionnaire. But the errors of the law-makers do not justify your compounding the misunderstanding and confusion by being equally narrow or discriminatory in your replies. If your philosophy is unorthodox but your conviction is deep-rooted in your perception of the realities of our world, set all this forth fully and carefully. You will then have at least given the draft board the opportunity to respect our constitutional provision for freedom of religion.

(3) Think about your answers far enough ahead that your writing may reflect your growth of spirit and mind as fully as possible. Many answers to SS Form 150 suffer from the spirit in which they are written or from lack of competence in bringing evidence to the

. (Continued Column 3, this page)

Army Revises Regulations Covering Noncombatant Service

A recent revision in Army Regulations outlines a more stringent procedure for securing noncombatant assignments after induction. This revision, effected in December, 1951, is in close accord with a Department of Defense Directive on the "Disposition of Conscientious Objectors" released June 18, 1951.

Under the new regulations an inductee who claims to be a conscientious objector to combatant duty but who has not been given I-A-O (noncombatant) classification by his Selective Service Board "will be required to present a certification from the pastor of his church stating that at the time of induction the individual was a member of such church and that the religious convictions of the church, or the man himself, do not permit him to be assigned to combatant military service. The training installation commander and, if available, a chaplain will interview the individual and review the statement of the pastor of the individual's church." Jurisdiction for assignment to noncombatant training or service lies with the training installation commander. Actual classification will not be changed to I-A-O even though the individual is given assignment as a conscientious objector to combatant duty.

The earlier regulations did not require a statement from the individual's pastor. At least three specific types of inductees will be ill-effected by the new provision: those who have formed convictions against combatant service but have no formal affiliation with a religious body, those whose pastors or churches are not sympathetic to conscientious objection, and those who have affiliated themselves with a church since induction.

A further revision in the December regulations regards the matter of location of assignment. A registrant holding I-A-O classification will, when inducted, be assigned by the reception center for basic training of a noncombatant nature to the Medical Replacement Training Center, Camp Pickett, Virginia. The MRTC has been recently transferred to Camp Pickett from Fort Meade, Maryland. Formerly I-A-O registrants were assigned for basic training to Fort Meade; or for beginning of training to the Third Armored Division, Fort Knox, Kentucky; Sixth Infantry Division, Ford Ord, California; or Tenth Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, after which they were assigned to the Medical Replacement Training Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas for completion of training.

Full utilization of all conscientious objector personnel has also received an added emphasis in the new Army Regulation. A part of this section reads as follows: "Conscientious objectors, because of assignment to medical units, or other type units which give consideration to their religious scruples to combatant duty, will not be allowed to avoid the important or hazardous duties which may be a part of the mission of any unit to which they may be assigned."

Following is the Army definition of noncombatant service and training (point number one is new with this regulation):

"(1) Service in any unit of the Army which is unarmed at all times.

(2) Service in the Army Medical Service wherever performed.

(3) Subject to the individual's acceptance, any service, the primary function of which does not require the use of arms in combat, provided such assignment does not require him to bear arms or to be trained in their use.

(4) Noncombatant training consists of any training which does not have to do with the study of, or the use or handling of, arms or weapons."

CO Program Delayed

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surely acceleration, following July 1, 1952.

What Will Indicate Beginning?

Formal beginning of the program will be "announced" by the issuing of several CO forms (described tentatively in the last REPORTER) and Local Board Memoranda. These can be subscribed to by sending $2.00 to the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. News of these will be given in the REPORTER as soon as known.

How to Fill In Form 150

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support of one's conscientious objection. These defects may be, not in your writing, but in your maturity of conviction; but the most thoughtfully the writing is done, the more likely it is to represent the best in you.

Walter Naturalization Bill Passes House; Senate Action on Similar Bills Due Soon

The Walter Immigration and Naturalization Bill, H.R. 5678, passed the House on April 25. This bill contains the oath which used the conjunction "or" to join the phrases "to bear arms," "to perform noncombatant service," "to perform work of national importance." This would exclude some COs and admit others, depending upon the interpretation of the language by individual CO aliens.

Three Bills in Senate

This bill automatically goes to the Senate for action. McCarran's bill, S. 2550, and the Humphrey-Lehman bill, H.R. 2842, also are in the Senate. S. 2550 would prevent the naturalization of conscientious objectors since the conjunction "and" is used to join the three phrases in the oath on bearing arms, noncombatant service, and work of national importance. The Humphrey-Lehman bill would allow the naturalization of CO aliens who were considered sincere by a naturalization court. (See the March-April *Reporter*.)

As this is written, it has just been announced that debate on McCarran's S.2550 will begin on the floor of the Senate on Friday, May 9. It may continue for several weeks. The Humphrey Lehman bill will be offered as a substitute. It is rumored that 150 to 250 amendments may also be submitted from the floor.

REPRESENTATIVE WALTER COMMENTS ON NATURALIZATION OF COs

In a recent communication with Representative Francis E. Walter, Chairman of Sub-committee Number 1, Immigration and Naturalization, of the House Committee on the Judiciary, he commented as follows:

"I agree with you that the Senate version could prevent the naturalization of a conscientious objector and I therefore intend to prevail upon my colleagues in the Senate to agree to my version of the naturalization oath."

Even though, in the minds of many, the House version has much to be desired regarding the oath of naturalization in relation to conscientious objection, this attitude of Representative Walter at least gives some hope that the Senate version will not prevail.

SIX ALIEN COs NATURALIZED

Jean Christiaens, Marion Copeland Sanborne, Dorothea Zukierelli, Otto Theodore Benfey, Erich Arsell, and Otto Hunsicker have been naturalized under the provision which grants the taking of an alternate oath by sincere conscientious objectors under the law as revised September, 1950.

The case of Mrs. Virgil Petry, Richmond, Indiana, is still pending. Various obstacles were presented by the court in this naturalization case, but it still seems there is hope that Mrs. Petry, a native of Canada, will be naturalized.

Arthur Jost, also a Canadian, was denied citizenship in the District Court, but has taken an appeal.

ROBERT L. FINCH TAKES ALTERNATE NATURALIZATION OATH FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

The Reverend Robert L. Finch, Vineland, New Jersey, is the missionary-son of American parents who was born on British soil. Because of some complications in the total situation, it was necessary for Reverend Finch to go through the process of establishing his citizenship. As a member of the Emmanuel Association, he is a conscientious objector to military service. He was allowed to take the alternate oath under the Internal Security Law of 1950.

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALIENS IN MILITARY SERVICE AVAILABLE FROM NSB

Inasmuch as the problem of aliens in military service frequently arises in draft cases, NSBRO is making available a 2-page release on the "Brief History of Aliens in Military Service." This is an excerpt from the brief of "Paul Moser vs. the United States of America." This brief was drafted by Jack Wasserman, a prominent Immigration and Naturalization attorney of Washington, D. C. Copies can be secured by sending ten cents to NSB, 1105 K Street N. W., Washington 1, D. C.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10,328

When the January-February *Reporter* went to press on February 20, the date of the signing of the CO regulations, the Executive Order Number was not yet assigned by the Archives. The Archivist informed us a few days later it was Number 10,328, the number it bore when the regulations were printed in the Federal Register.

Senators Decide "Frozen" Fund Legislation Futile

Senators John Sparkman, of Alabama, and Leverett Saltonstall, of Massachusetts, both much interested in the "frozen fund," recently conferred and decided that introduction of legislation at this session of Congress to recover the "frozen fund" would be futile. In recent years both these Senators actively and successfully sponsored a Senate bill which would have appropriated one and a quarter millions, the equivalent of the so-called "frozen fund" of CPS days, to CARE (Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe, Inc.). Because of the great amount of business to come before the Senate in the next few months, and due to Senate adjournment plans, it was felt there is absolutely no chance of such a bill being passed by Congress this year. Failures of Congress to pass this legislation in both Houses in recent years also lessens the hopes of passage this year. This decision may be the death knell of attempts to recover this fund.

The "frozen fund," it will be recalled, totaling about a million and a quarter dollars, is the equivalent of wages earned by CPS during World War II, and deposited with the U. S. Treasury. It was the hope for a long time that these funds would be made available for relief or other humanitarian purposes, in accordance with the results of a poll of the men who earned the money. In 1947 the sum was taken out of a special fund, and placed in the United States Treasury. Only an appropriation by Congress could now recover the funds.

ACLU SEEKS EXECUTIVE ORDER ON PAROLE

The American Civil Liberties Union has launched an effort to have the President release an Executive Order modeled after Executive Order 8641 which was in operation during World War II. The new Executive Order would make it possible for a CO in prison to be released on parole 60 days after being convicted. He should be paroled to (1) combatant service in the Armed Forces, (2) noncombatant service in the Armed Forces, or (3) in work contributing to the maintenance of the national health, safety, or interest.

Under the Order, the power of parole would be placed in the hands of the Parole Board, rather than the procedure followed during World War II. To date no final action has been taken by the government on the request of the ACLU.

"The Rainbow in the Clouds"

In a release of the War Resisters' International just reaching our office, there is the complete report of Grace Beaton, Secretary of this organization, entitled "The Rainbow in the Clouds," in which she describes very vividly the situation regarding war resistance throughout the world. She describes the situation of conscientious objectors in many of these countries. Following are significant excerpts from her report:

Australia

This year has brought our Australian friends face to face with the major problem of the re-introduction of compulsory military training. The National Service Act conscripts 18-year-old males for training in the armed forces up to the age of 26. The first registration period has just taken place. It appears that provision is made for the complete exemption of COs. Groups opposed the introduction of this Act, but without success.

Belgium

The bill for the legal recognition of conscientious objection received a sad blow when Deputy Baccus died. He had sponsored the bill but our Belgian Section has continued to work for it and is still hoping to achieve this big step forward. We have recently heard from Hem Day that a band of young socialists, the Jeunes Gardes Socialists, are in favour of the proposed amendment to make conscientious objection legal and are conducting a campaign to bring pressure upon their members of Parliament.

Our News Release have given information about the increase in the number of young men who refuse to serve in the armed forces, and Hem Day and others are watching the trials which are giving increasing publicity to the cause of war resistance in Belgium. Jean van Lierde is one who has served our world-wide movement by his fearless stand. Even before he was released from prison on completion of his sentence, Jean had received a new order to join the army. For the second trial which will take place, Hem Day is proposing to invite persons from abroad to go to Belgium to give evidence.

Behind the Iron Curtain

In Poland the newspapers no longer report any cases of conscientious objection. If there are any, they are just not mentioned, and our friends have not been able to trace them.

The following message was also read from friends in Czechoslovakia.

"The stand of individual resistance we heard of from behind the Iron Curtain is different in degree. It varies from the student who opposed only the officer's training to which he was liable (thus incurring harder and more dangerous work as a common soldier whose personal responsibility in the war machine he did not yet realize), to the other student who, as a disciple of Christ, objected to all military service, was condemned to several years' imprisonment and is in prison now. The treatment of COs is not uniform behind the Iron Curtain, even in one country. They are at the mercy of arbitrary power. (That is really so of all citizens living there, for there is no real protection for the individual by law.) We know of Adventists—some refusing military service altogether, others only on Saturday—who have been in prison for a long time without being given a hearing, although influential people of other religious bodies tried to help them. But we also know of a young man who on refusing armed service was allowed to serve in office and hospital."

France

The "Committee for the Legal Recognition of Conscientious Objection" (Secretary, Claude-Henri Sellier), is a strong and representative body which is working quietly but persistently for an alteration in the law. It also keeps in touch with COs, and partly supports them financially. French law does not yet recognize conscientious objection. Therefore COs are charged "by analogy": that is to say, they are charged with insubordination, desertation and refusal of obedience. They appear before military courts. At the present time there are about thirty COs in France, most of them Jehovah's Witnesses. They are automatically sentenced to prison and when they have finished their term they are sentenced again, and will continue to be, if nothing occurs, till they are fifty. The oldest in time is Caesar Bugany, already charged and sentenced five times since 1946, but many others have been in prison for three years.

Great Britain

Our friend Bernard Withers reports some excellent work done by the Board (Central Board for Conscientious Objectors). On January 1st, 1949, a new Act came into force making all British subjects between the ages of 18 and 26 liable for 18 months' service. On October 1st, 1950, the period was further increased to 24 months. The numbers applying for registration as COs were 415 in 1948, 595 in 1949, and 635 in 1950, and the last complete figure show that the proportion has risen to 0.23% of the total registrations, the highest since September 1944.

The work of the Board has therefore consisted chiefly in the maintenance of an advisory system for the benefit of small numbers of young men between the ages of 18 and 21. Very few of these men become subject to military law, and if they are prosecuted in the civil courts they are often fined instead of being imprisoned, owing to a recent amendment of the criminal law. Those who have been court-martialed have, in nearly every case, been discharged from the forces on the recommendation of the tribunals.

Holland

During the last few years the one factor above all others in so far as our work is concerned has been the ever increasing number of war resisters. Their legal position threatens to become more more difficult. After the second world war the pacifists offered to the Government a proposal for a new law on conscientious objection, which was favorably received by the then Minister of War, but he failed to implement his promise to bring in a new and improved CO law. After his resignation the War Department introduced less favorable treatment for those registered as COs. It seems that powerful interests in the War Department want the law on conscientious objection to be changed so that the alternative civilian service should be abolished and only so-called non-combatant service in the army maintained as the legal solution for objectors. The most that can be hoped for at present is to check the stream of less favorable treatment the War Department would, if it were omnipotent, pour out over the war resisters.

Israel

Before the Constitution for the new State of Israel was drawn up we put before the Prime Minister, Mr. Ben Gurion, and the Minister of Justice, the position of the absolute war resisters and the provision made for them in many countries. Our letters were sympathetically received and replied to, but unhappily our point of view was not accepted. Since then, however, we have written to the Minister of Justice in Israel from Headquarters, urging the legal recognition of war resistance. To our latest request we received a courteous reply dated June 7th last, in which the Minister said that the Gov-

ernment had seriously considered whether it should include in the Military Service Laws a clause to exempt COs from active military service, but felt they could not do it while the country was still practically in a state of war. He concluded: "As soon as peaceful conditions prevail in Israel, I shall have pleasure in bringing before the Government for consideration your proposal that the law should make the necessary allowances or conscientious objection to military service."

Italy

All citizens from the age of 18 to 55 are now subject to military tribunals for matters concerning the defense and safety of the State. The Constitution itself is being violated by submitting to military tribunals certain civilians who should be subject to civil courts. Even the Supreme Tribunal has sanctioned this violation of the Constitution by confirming the sentence condemning to 2 years 4 months' imprisonment two young men, civilians, for instigating civilians to disobey the military law. There are a dozen war resisters, at least, in prison or in process of examination. In Italy (as also to some extent in France, Belgium and Holland), the military authorities have tried psychaitric examination of COs and in a few cases have discharged the resisters as being "unfit for service."

New Zealand

Since our last International Conference, compulsory military training for youths attaining the age of 18 has become law in New Zealand. While the Bill was under discussion by Parliament, members of various organizations in New Zealand made representations in regard to the provisions for COs. Fairly liberal provision is now made for them, and all appeals are heard by one Conscientious Objection Committee for the whole country.

Norway

Since the war there have been about 2,000 COs in Norway. The Government and some members of Parliament indicate a certain "nervousness" about our work. A discussion on the question of COs took place in Parliament a few weeks ago, and members of different parties spoke in favour of the COs. One especially, a member of the Conservative Party, stressed that the real pacifist can never be a fifth columnist or a political or national danger.

WHY WE FIGHT

A series of 4-page pamphlets entitled "Why We Fight" has been put out by the Commission on Religious Organizations, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

COs In Europe Described By Mennonite Scholar

Editor's Note: This is the last part of an article begun several issues back, by Dr. Guy F. Hershberger, of Goshen College.

Switzerland

General conscription has existed in Switzerland since 1848. Military service is compulsory for all physically fit male citizens. The clergy are exempt, but they must pay a military tax, as must all males of military age exempt for any reason, such as physical disqualification. Refusal to perform military service in peace time may be punished by imprisonment from three days to three years. Refusal to perform active service in time of crisis is punishable by imprisonment for a period of from one to twenty years. Formerly the CO might be deprived of his civil rights, although that provision has been deleted from the new law of 1950. From 1914 to 1945, there were 350 cases of COs tried by Swiss military courts; from 1939 to 1945 there were 97 cases. There have been three cases of sentence to 8 days imprisonment, and one case of three years imprisonment. The remainder were given sentences of from 14 days to two years each.

Since each Swiss soldier must keep a good markmanship record many engage in rifle practice regularly as a sport. This is so much a part of the Swiss national spirit that it has proven very difficult to liberalize the military service law as it affects conscientious objectors. There is a sense in which the Swiss tradition is one of progress, freedom, and liberty; but there is another sense in which it is one of conservation and intolerance.

At various times attempts have been made to liberalize the law to permit conscientious objectors to perform alternative civilian service. Such attempts were made, notably in 1903, 1920, 1923, 1923, 1946, and 1949. In 1946 Professor Andre Oltramare of the University of Geneva, a member of the Swiss Peace Council (a peace organization), and also a member of the Nationalrat (the lower house of the Swiss federal legislature), introduced a bill asking for the recognition of COs, and the substitution of civilian for military service. The matter was passed up to the Bundesrat (the executive branch) which appointed a commission of experts to study the question. Finally in 1949 the Bundesrat submitted proposals for the modification of the law, and in 1950 the new law was passed. The new law is only a slight improvement over the old. It applies only to religious COs, who must still go to prison for refusing service, although they must now be placed in those prisons where minor criminals are incarcerated, and civil rights may no longer be taken from the sentenced CO. The proposal for alternative civilian service was rejected as not in line with the Swiss tradition.

Since the military courts are giving the objectors increasingly more careful religious, medical, and psychological examination, the most likely procedure will be to declare the individual psychologically unfit for military service, and to exclude him from the army. If this view is correct, it may be easier in the future than it has in the past, for the sincere religious CO to be excused from military service. Even under the old law it was possible to be expelled from the army, and in many cases this is what happened to the persistent CO. For the first offense he was likely to receive a short sentence, perhaps two or three months in prison. The next year, if he refused to take his refresher training he might receive a longer sentence; and for the third offense a still longer one. Then if arrested for the fourth refusal the military court might decide that the man was a hopeless case, unfit for military service, and expel him from the army. When this happens a man is no longer summoned for service, although he must pay the military tax. It is important to note that COs in Switzerland are tried by a military court, because theoretically the man is already in the army. The Swiss citizen is born into the army. For all practical purposes his birth certificate is also his draft registration certificate. Then when he reaches the age of 20 he is simply called up for service by the military. If he refuses, he has violated a military order, and so must be tried in a military court.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS PRODUCE MANUAL FOR I-A-Os

In keeping with the program of training members of their group for medical service in the Armed Forces, the War Service Commission of the Seventh Day Adventist Church has produced a manual, "Medical Cadet Corps Training Guide" for use in training I-A-O registrants. Copies of this manual can be secured by writing the War Service Commission, 6840 Eastern Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

Is Counseling COs Legal?

In a recent release, the Mennonite Central Committee gave the following answer to the question, "Is Counselling COs Legal?"

"This week a pastor asked whether it is legal for him to give counsel to a young man regarding the conscientious objector position. Perhaps there are similar questions in the minds of others also.

"It is illegal to encourage or advise a registrant to refuse registration, to refuse to report for induction, to refuse to report for civilian work assignment, to desert the armed forces, or to violate any other requirement or provision of the draft law.

"However, it is entirely within the provision of the law for registrants to take the CO position, and, therefore, completely legal for a minister, parent or other counsellor to advise, assist, counsel, plead with or encourage men in considering the Christian conscientious objector position. For the welfare of the registrant, of course, the decision should be his very own personal conviction; but in clarifying the issues, the counsellor may feel perfectly free to encourage the registrant in taking the CO position.

"If a registrant is required to report for induction against his conscience, it is illegal to advise him to refuse induction; but it is legal to inform him fully of the procedures through which he will go and where he will need to take his position firmly in order to have the best legal protection. If a young man is in the armed forces and desires a discharge as a CO, it is illegal to advise him to refuse military orders, but it is legal to inform his concerning the proper approach to make toward his superiors in order to request discharge."

ATTORNEY MYERS SERVES IN COURT MARTIAL CASE

Attorney Robert B. Myers, consultative counsel retained by the National Service Board, recently served as counsel in the case of James Cobb, Mennonite from Valparaiso, Indiana, who was recently court martialed at Fort Meade, Maryland, on a charge of violating an order. While Cobb was sentenced to three months at hard labor and fifty dollars fine, the assistance of counsel was invaluable.

Cobb has taken a very firm and commendable stand. He refuses to accept army pay or to take part in the military program.

MEMORANDUM ON DRAFT SYSTEM FOR COs AVAILABLE

A memorandum on the Draft System for Conscientious Objectors under the present draft law, containing a listing of local, state, and national draft officials, with brief statements of the functions of each, is now available. Attached to the descriptive material is a graph illustrating the entire draft system. This memorandum, originally prepared by the American Friends Service Committee, is very useful to draft counsellors. This organization has given permission to NSB to reproduce and circulate the information.

You can receive copies, individually or in bulk, by writing to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, 1105 K Street, N. W., Washington 5, D. C. Free copies will be sent if desired but, due to the high cost of reproducing materials, we suggest you remit 10c for each individual copy you order up to nine copies. If you want ten or more remit 5c per copy.

MARINE CORPS COMMANDANT ORDERS RECOGNITION OF I-A-O STATUS

Some months ago the Commandant ordered all of his commanding officers to recognize the I-A-O position. Following is the wire sent to commanding officers:

"When men are attached to your command who claim to be members of the Seventh Day Adventist faith or are classified as I-A-O the facts will be presented to the CMC without delay. Each such report shall be accompanied by a statement as to whether or not the man is considered to be sincere in his faith. No training in weapons or combat will be instituted nor will disciplinary action be taken for objection to assignment to duties or training in conflict with their faith. Training and duty assignments will be determined by CMC."

The Air Force, Army, and Navy each have regulations covering the services of non-combatant conscientious objectors. The Marine Corps, as such, has no particular regulations, similar to that of the other branches of the Service, covering the services of I-A-O men. However, the above telegram may, for practical purposes, cover the point.

MCC PRODUCES DRAFT MANUAL

A Manual of Draft Information for Ministers and Other Counsellors has been prepared by the Mennonite Central Committee. It is invaluable. Write to MCC, Akron, Pa., for a copy.

Purchase of Government Bonds Considered Adverse Evidence Against COs

George Loft, efficient and dynamic expert on CO matters with AFSC, has recently made the following observation in the case of Richard Nassal, imprisoned CO who was accused by the Judge of buying government bonds and therefore possibly not being sincere:

"In January, 1952, Richard Nassal was tried and sentenced to a year's imprisonment because of his refusal to be inducted into the Army. One point stressed by Judge John Knight in the Buffalo (N. Y.) court was that Richard's purchase of government savings bonds threw some doubt on the sincerity of his position, since, in the judge's view, these government bonds clearly were designed to raise money for the military and armaments programs.

SELECTIVE SERVICE PRESCRIBES PROCEDURE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF CO CLAIM

In Local Board Memorandum No. 41 Selective Service described the procedure which may be followed in "withdrawal of claim of conscientious objection." The memorandum reads as follows:

"1. Purpose.—The purpose of this local board memorandum is to establish procedures respecting the withdrawal by registrants of claims of conscientious objection. Misunderstandings in connection with the withdrawal of such claims have arisen in the past especially in cases where the withdrawal was based upon verbal statements made by the registrant.

"2. Withdrawal Must Be in Writing.—Whenever a registrant has claimed conscientious objection to war by signing Series XIV of the Classification Questionnaire (SSS Form No. 100) or by filing a special form for Conscientious Objector (SSS Form No. 150), or has filed any other written statement claiming that he is a conscientious objector, the claim of conscientious objection shall not be considered to have been withdrawn until the registrant submits, and there is filed in his Cover Sheet (SSS Form No. 101), a written statement signed by him specifically withdrawing the claim. After such written withdrawal of claim has been filed, all forms and other written evidence previously filed by the registrant concerning his claim of conscientious objection shall be retained in his cover sheet but shall be disregarded in considering the registrant for classification and induction."

LAACO Issues Advice On Hearings

The Los Angeles Area Committee for COs recently issued a release giving to COs instructions to follow in connection with the personal appearance before the local board. In a preface to the instructions the Committee made the distinction between the Personal Appearance Hearing (P.A.H.) before the local board and the Hearing Officer Hearing (H.O.H.) before the hearing officer when a case is appealed. Following are the instructions:

"1. You MUST ask the local board for this hearing within 10 days of the date they mailed you the classification card (SSS Form 110). Mail or deliver to the local board a LETTER, as follows:

"Gentlemen:

"I desire a personal appearance before the board to explain why I should have a different classification than the one on the card you mailed me on_____1952.

"If you do not give me a new classification I desire to appeal.

Very truly yours,

_____

No._____

"2. Go to the board's office IMMEDIATELY and ask to see your file. If it isn't promptly displayed to you, phone me (counselor), if you object to being stalled.

"3. Make notes of new and further facts to tell the board; studying your file and thinking about the subject will remind you of many things.

"4. Bring several corroborative witnesses to the Hearing.

"5. Take the notes of your new and further facts, and of the old matters in your file you wish to point out to the board to your P.A. Hearing and check off these notations as you relate them.

"6. Never be anything but respectful unless you are certain you are being intentionally subjected to bullying; then follow my (counselor's) instructions.

"7. After the P.A.H. immediately try to put down on paper EVERYTHING that was said, and make a sketch of the seating arrangement.

"8. Ask the witnesses to write out what they would have said if admitted to the hearing.

"9. Save the ORIGINALS of No. 7 and No. 8."

REV. WATERS MAKES SUGGESTIONS TO CHURCH OF CHRIST COs

The Rev. J. Ervin Waters, of The Church of Christ, reported on his recent trip to Washington in his denominational paper "Old Paths Advocate." He had the following to say regarding material to be filed by CO registrants with the local board:

"One Congressional official suggested that this might help. Let the boys now of the pre-registrant age prepare a statement of what they believe about war and military service, and read this statement now in the church assembly. Then let him and several witnesses sign before a Notary Public. Let this document bear the date of the public reading, etc. And, if possible, let the registrant word it himself. Have it signed in triplicate. File it at the time the registrant fills out his Form 150. We may do all we can and then sometimes that will not be enough.

"Selective Service officials suggested that they preferred for the registrant to word his own statements, letters of appeal, etc., in order that they might appraise his intelligence, get an idea of his nature, personality, etc. Where this is possible, I can now see it is best."

While in Washington Rev. Waters had numerous conferences with Selective Service officials, studied the old War Department File on The Church of Christ and War, arranged to have a statement of The Church of Christ printed in the Congressional Record, and testified before a Congressional Committee.

MEDICAL AND OTHER "NON-PREACHING" MISSIONARIES GIVEN IV-D IF CERTIFIED AS ORDAINED BY RELIGIOUS BODIES

Selective Service has indicated they will take steps to recommend to local boards the IV-D classification for medical, technical, and other "non-preaching" missionaries duly appointed by Mission Boards for service. They require, however, that Mission Boards certify that these people are ordained by the Church.

This has caused some difficulty in that ecclesiastical bodies are hesitant to give official ordination to men who are actually not ministers. But it is the policy of Selective Service to give the IV-D classification to not only these non-preaching missionaries, but also to teachers in Parochial schools, and others doing full-time religious work.

Selective Service Does Not Regard Previous Prison Sentence Sufficient Basis for IV-F Classification

Many legal experts and others have contended that the serving of a prison sentence by a conscientious objector should be sufficient to entitle him to the IV-F classification, on the basis of being considered "morally unfit." This point of view was presented repeatedly to Selective Service by NSBRO and others. In reply to the latest expression of concern to Selective Service by NSB on this point, the following answer was received from Selective Service:

"The problem you raise is one to which we have given considerable thought. In many individual situations the provisions of Section 1622.44 of the regulations will result in a IV-F classification for individuals who have been sentenced to a year or more in prison for having refused to register or to report for induction on the grounds of alleged conscientious scruples. But we do not believe that the mere fact that a man has previously served a term in prison is enough to make it incumbent upon the local board to recognize that his alleged conscientious objection is, in fact, of a nature that entitles him to classification in Class I-O under the law and the regulations. A prior conviction is simply another factual item to be taken into consideration by the local board at the time a registrant is classified, and the local board always retains the right and duty to classify a registrant with respect to a claim of conscientious objection on the basis of all of the evidence available."

YOUTH CORRECTION DIVISION NOW OPERATING IN BUREAU OF PRISONS

Of interest to conscientious objectors, particularly those facing prison terms, is the existence of a Youth Correction Division now operating within the Board of Parole of the Bureau of Prisons. The creation of this Division came about through the adoption of Public Law 865, 81st Congress, Second Session. The law is "to provide a system for the treatment and rehabilitation of youth offenders, to improve the administration of criminal justice, and for other purposes."

It is generally hoped that this Bureau will improve the treatment of youthful offenders and that it will be of benefit to conscientious objectors as well.

THE PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN CO EMERGENCY

In response to a communication from NSBRO, the Executive Committee of the Department of Social Relations of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, with offices in Harrisburg, Pa., was authorized to act in case of any emergency regarding the classification problems of any conscientious objector.

This, in the opinion of your editor, is a very progressive step on the part of a very prominent Council of Churches. It is commended to Councils of Churches in other states of the Union for similar action.

AIR FORCE RESERVISTS WHO ARE COs

Some Air Force Reservists, who are conscientious objectors, have been in contact with the Air Force over the past few years regarding discharge. Word from the Air Force Chief of Chaplains is that a reservist should, as soon as he is aware of his scruples, notify the Chief of Chaplains in Washington and ask for a recommendation that he not be called to active duty. Data regarding the man's claim to conscientious objection, similar to the data filed with the local board in the case of Selective Service registrants, should accompany this letter to the Chief of Chaplains. Simply write Air Force Chief of Chaplains, Washington 25, D. C.

The Air Force Reservist should comply with any order to report for a physical examination which he may receive, similar to the compliance of conscientious objectors to the draft with orders to report for the physical. At the center where the physical is administered, the Reservist should get in touch with the Chaplain and the Commanding Officer at the Post at once and interpret his position to these officers. Information supporting the claim, similar to that sent to the Chief of Chaplains Office in Washington, should accompany these representations to the Post Chaplain and Commander.

If the Post Chaplain and Commander will not listen to the claims of the conscientious objector, the latter should then phone to Washington immediately and refer to information filed with the Chief of Chaplains previously. The Air Chief of Chaplains will then contact the Post immediately and ask for a review by the Delay Board. The Post Chaplain and Commanding Officer, if they hear the claim, will refer it to the Delay Board also. The Delay Board will make a final decision on the Reservist's claim.

American Legion Passes Resolutions Unfavorable to Conscientious Objectors

The action of the American Legion National Convention in Miami last fall regarding conscientious objectors is most significant in terms of the present situation regarding COs. Several resolutions of this Legion national convention have come again to our attention.

Barring Naturalization of COs

One resolution would bar the naturalization of COs. The resolution, following four "Whereas" paragraphs, says:

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the American Legion in National Convention assembled at Miami, Florida, October 15-18, 1951, that this alternative Oath be repealed and that there be only one kind of citizen in this country and that everyone be subject to the same laws."

This means, of course, that the oath which may now be taken by conscientious objectors under the present law, will be eliminated. We have direct word that the American Legion persuaded the Naturalization and Immigration Service to request Congress for one oath.

Make Classification More Stringent

Another resolution asks that the classification as a CO be made more stringent and that Selective Service minimize such classification. The resolution follows six "Whereas" paragraphs in which (1) the CO provision in the UMTS law is regarded as too liberal, (2) relief from military service is called unconstitutional, and (3) George Washington is quoted on military service. The last "Whereas" paragraph, and the "Resolved" paragraphs as as follows:

"Whereas, Those classified as conscientious objectors are only required to perform work for a period of 24 months contributing to the national health, safety and interest; be it

"Resolved, That the qualifications for a deferred classification as a conscientious objector be made more stringent, and that the Selective Service System minimize such classification."

All COs To Be I-A-Os

Another short resolution would bar COs from alternative civilian service by requiring noncombatant service in the Armed Forces. Following two short "Whereas" paragraphs, charging that many use the CO provision to escape military service, it continues:

"Resolved, That the American Legion in national convention assembled in Miami, Florida, October 15-18, 1951, go on record to recommend that we urgently request the Government of the United States to use all possible influence to see to it that no conscientious objectors escape military service entirely, but that they be classed in Class I-A-O, which classifies them for non-combatant service only."

American Legion resolutions usually originate with the local Post and are sent on to the national convention. Many such local resolutions on COs annually reach the national convention. There were arguments on both sides of these resolutions, but those in favor of the resolutions against COs obviously won.

PAROLE PROCEDURES AVAILABLE

NSB has recently compiled a few suggestions to follow in attempting to secure a parole for a C.O. in jail. It can be secured by sending five cents to NSBRO, 1105 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

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